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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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Austria

DATE DISTR. 29 March 1955

SUBJECT

Background Information on Copper
Diversions through USIA

NO. OF PAGES 2

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4. Change in Austrian Allocation System. Until about 1 August 1954, USIA was supplied with copper largely by an annual allocation which was approved by the Austrian Government. This allocation was believed to be more than sufficient for USIA's needs, but, since so much of it was diverted to the Soviet Union, there were recurrent shortages of copper.² When these occurred, USIA plant managers requiring copper would be authorized to buy it on the black market. The prices paid for black-market copper were considerably higher than the price of copper acquired under the Austrian Government allocation system.

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- ² Comment. Probably from 60 to 70 percent of this allocated copper was diverted to the Soviet Union.

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